

Ms. WATERS. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana, the author of this bill, Representative ELLSWORTH.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of CJ's Home Protection Act, H.R. 320. The House's consideration of this public safety legislation today—legislation which would require a NOAA weather radio be installed in all manufactured homes built and sold in this country—is a continuation of an effort we started 2 years ago. Back in 2007, the House passed this bill by voice vote, and I hope it will receive broad support again today.

At 2 a.m. on the morning of November 6, 2005, an F3 tornado touched down in my district in southwest Indiana. The tornado hit a manufactured housing community after most people had gone to sleep, and it tragically took 25 lives, Hoosier lives in Vanderburgh and Warrick County. These lives might have been saved if the victims knew of the dangerous storm that was approaching.

CJ, a loving and playful 2-year-old boy, was one of the victims that night. CJ and 24 other victims, including his grandmother and great grandmother, are the reason why I'm here today. His picture is a reminder of the heartbreaking loss that severe weather can bring to families and communities throughout this country. All too frequently this loss comes with little or no warning.

Madam Speaker, I was the sheriff of the county back in 2005, and my department oversaw the recovery effort in the aftermath of this horrendous storm. The horror and devastation the storm left behind is something I will remember the rest of my life. That is why this bill is so important to me and many others.

While CJ is the inspiration for this important public safety legislation, Kathryn Martin, CJ's mother, is the leader in the effort. In the months after the storm, Kathryn channeled her pain and suffering toward an effort to pass similar legislation in the State of Indiana. Kathryn would not be denied. She was successful in getting the bill passed, and because of the awareness she raised about weather radios, the people in my hometown of Evansville, Indiana, have the most weather radios in households per capita in the United States.

When I first met Kathryn, I promised her that if I ever came to Congress I would introduce Federal legislation to do the same thing that she was trying to push in our State. The bill before us today is a fulfillment of that promise. CJ's Home Protection Act amends the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standard to require that each manufactured home delivered for sale shall be supplied with a weather radio inside the manufactured home.

One might question that when not every area of the country endures the

same dangerous tornado season, why should this be a national standard? While it's true that some regions encounter more tornadoes than others, extreme weather exists everywhere. A tornado took CJ's life. But for another child living in California, it could be a wildfire or a mudslide. For a child living in Texas, it could be a flash flood. Also, it should be added that NOAA weather radios are used to put out AMBER alerts. The radio must be capable of broadcasting emergency information related to local weather conditions, equipped with a tone alarm and specific alert message encoding, and comply with Consumer Electronics Association standards for public receivers.

Like a smoke detector, these inexpensive devices can provide families with the warning they need to take action and protect themselves when severe weather strikes. This bill is about improving public safety, plain and simple. It's not about demonizing the manufactured housing industry. Kathryn and John Martin and the other residents of this community love their homes, and the manufactured houses provide affordable, high-quality homes for thousands of American families. I'm a strong supporter of manufactured housing. I see this legislation as adding one more feature to enhance the safety features of these structures.

Before I conclude my remarks, Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman BARNEY FRANK and his staff at the Financial Services Committee for their efforts to move this legislation forward. This bill would not be where it is today without the strong support of Ranking Member SPENCER BACHUS. He has been a vocal advocate for this cause from the very beginning. Thank you very much. I would also like to thank Congressman DENNIS MOORE and Congresswoman KAY GRANGER for their support as original cosponsors. Finally, I'd like to thank my good friend from Indiana, Congressman JOE DONNELLY, who was helpful throughout the entire process.

I urge my colleagues to support this important public safety legislation. The cost of a NOAA weather radio is a mere \$30 to \$80, and for that price we can improve the safety of so many people from the sudden threat of extreme weather.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I do want to thank Ranking Member BACHUS. He has done a tremendous job in pushing forth this bill, along with the chairman. And I also want to thank again Mr. ELLSWORTH for his passion and his leadership on this issue. We all know that we dread times of storm. We've just gone through one in Virginia where, luckily, we didn't lose any lives. But we all know that when there are ways to prevent death and destruction, we ought to act in that way. Mr. ELLSWORTH and his leadership, seeing the

need, seeing where we can save lives, stood up, assumed that leadership role and has really done, I think, a great thing for folks that have manufactured homes throughout the United States. Again, thank you for your leadership. And thank you again to Mr. BACHUS, the ranking member, for his leadership on this and to the chairman for pushing this important legislation through.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in addressing the need to install weather radios in all manufactured homes manufactured or sold in the United States to ensure the safety of all Americans. This bill, named after a 2-year-old boy whose life was taken away when a tornado struck his community in 2005, will allow residents to receive more timely warnings about imminent severe weather. Accordingly, the bill ensures that each manufactured home delivered for sale in the United States be supplied with a weather radio.

Nearly 20,000,000 Americans live in manufactured homes. Because manufactured homes are more affordable than traditional homes, they are a viable housing option for low and moderate-income families. With the state of the economy, manufactured homes have become a more accessible and affordable way for many families to purchase their own homes. Thus, weather radios are essential as they provide immediate broadcast warnings of severe weather, such as floods, tornadoes, and high winds.

In March of 2009 a surprise tornado struck the City of Atlanta and caused millions of dollars worth of damage. Tornadoes can strike in many parts of the country, including places where they are rare, such as Atlanta. This is why the CJ's Home Protection Act of 2009 is an important piece of legislation that will save lives. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 320.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TEMPORARY FORBEARANCE FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CONTAMINATED DRYWALL

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 197) encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows: